

ABSTRACTCOMPUTER SYSTEM AND METHOD OF OPERATING A COMPUTER
SYSTEM

5 A processing unit connectable to a data communications network has a data
carrier reader operable to read a network address from a hand insertable data carrier.
wherein the processing unit is operable to use the network address from the data
carrier for communicating via the data communications network. A processing unit
forming part of a computer system may be readily replaced by a replacement
10 processing unit, and arranged to continue communicating via the communications
network, by using the same network address as the original processing unit read from
the data carrier. The data carrier may be a Smart card or the like. A method of
operating a computer system may therefore comprise connecting the processing unit to
a communications network, loading a data carrier into the data carrier reader,
15 arranging for the network address to be read from the data carrier, and arranging for
the processing unit to use the network address read from the data carrier to
communicate via the network.

Figure 4 for abstract